



# 1995-96 KIRIS OPEN-RESPONSE ITEM SCORING WORKSHEET

## Grade 4 — Reading Question 1

Type of Passage: Informational

The academic expectation addressed by this item includes:

**1.2 Students make sense of the variety of materials they read.**

The core content assessed by this item includes:

- Identify main ideas and the details which support them.

### 1. Three-Leaf Danger

Imagine that you and a friend are hiking in the woods when you see a poison ivy plant.

- Explain to your friend why these plants could cause a health problem.
- If your friend accidentally touches the poison ivy plant, what should your friend do?  
Support your answer with examples from the article.

## SCORING GUIDE

Score	Description
4	Response provides a detailed description of why poison ivy plants cause health problems; shows an in-depth understanding of how to treat poison ivy by explaining fully and using appropriate examples from the article.
3	Response provides a basic description of why poison ivy plants cause health problems; shows a complete understanding of how to treat poison ivy but uses examples from the article that are not fully developed. Response may contain minor inaccuracies.
2	Response provides an adequate answer to only one part of the question or responds to both parts of the question with weak examples from the article; response may include major inaccuracies.
1	Response shows a minimal understanding of the article.
0	Response is incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	Blank/no response.

### **SOME KEY FACTS FROM THE ARTICLE:**

- Poison ivy causes a rash and itching in three out of four people.
- Reaction comes from oil in plants and from smoke of burning plant.
- If you get poison ivy on your skin --
  - wash the affected area with soap as soon as possible to stop the rash.(Within 10 minutes is preferred.) Soap breaks down oil and reduces reaction.
- If you already have a rash --
  - use either calamine lotion or hot water w/baking soda or cornstarch.
  - see a doctor if it gets worse.

The article you are about to read tells you some useful facts about poison ivy. Read the article. Then answer question 1.

## Three-Leaf Danger

If you've ever had it, you know the incredible itching. The large red bumps or blisters. Yes, poison ivy or its relatives, poison oak and poison sumac, can turn a fun summer outing into an itchy nightmare.

Why are these plants such a problem? For one thing, nearly three out of four people are allergic to them. What's more, the plants grow just about everywhere in North America. The allergen in these plants is contained in an oil found on almost any part of the plant. So it's not just the leaves that are dangerous.

This oil rubs off easily on clothes or skin when you brush against it. And pets that roam where poison ivy grows can bring it back to you on their coat. In fact, even the smoke from burning poison ivy can cause the rash on some people.

What can you do about a pesky rash maker like poison ivy? Learn to know the plant. The old saying "Leaves of three, leave them be" can help you remember what it looks like.

If you do get poison ivy on your skin, wash those areas with soap as soon as possible. The soap breaks down the oil and reduces the allergic reaction. Doing this within 10 minutes can stop rashes or blisters before they start. If the poison ivy is on your clothes, don't touch them until you get home. Take them off without touching the parts that were in the ivy.

If you've already broken out, calamine lotion or hot water with baking soda or cornstarch can help reduce the itching. If the poison ivy gets bad or you have a history of bad poison ivy, see your doctor to get other medications. Of course, the best way to avoid this nasty rash is to know what the plants look like -- and stay away!



# KIRIS ASSESSMENT ANNOTATED RESPONSE

## GRADE 4 READING

### Sample 4-Point Response of Student Work

a. If my friend and I were hiking through the woods and we saw a poison ivy plant, I would explain to my friend why these plants can cause a health problem by explaining how three out of four people are allergic to them, how they grow just about everywhere in North America, and that the allergen in poison ivy plants is contained in an oil found almost anywhere on the plant. So it isn't just the leaves that are dangerous. The oil rubs off easily on clothes or skin when you brush against it. Pets that roam in areas where poison ivy grows can bring it back to you on their coat. Even the smoke from burning poison ivy can cause a rash on some people.

Response provides detailed description of why poison ivy causes health problems.

b. If my friend accidentally touched the poison ivy plant he or she should wash those areas with soap, like it is mentioned in the article. The soap breaks down the oil and reduces the allergic reaction. In the article it says if poison ivy gets on your clothes don't touch them until you get home. And try to take them off without touching the parts that were in ivy. In the article it also points out that if you've already broken out calamine lotion or hot water with baking soda or cornstarch can help reduce the itching, so my friend should do that too. The article also says if you have a history of bad poison ivy, or if the ivy gets bad, to see your doctor to get other medications, so my friend would also need to see his doctor, just to be on the safe side.

Response shows in-depth understanding of how to treat poison ivy and uses appropriate examples from the article.

Summary annotation statement: Student answers both parts of the question and identifies all of the main ideas of the passage as well as their supporting details.



# KIRIS ASSESSMENT ANNOTATED RESPONSE

## GRADE 4 READING

### Sample 3-Point Response of Student Work

A. These plants can cause a very bad health problem because you will have red itchy bumps all over you. You'r pets could bring it home and give it to you! Also the oil that is in the plants rubs against you and soaks into your skin. The oil that is in the plant is not just in the leafs, it's also in the stem. You always need to know what these plants look like.

Response provides a basic description of why poison ivy plants cause health problems.

B. If you get poison ivy on your skin, wash those areas with soap as soon as possible. The soap breaks down the oil and reduces the allergic reaction. Doing this within 10 min. can stop rashes or blisters befor they start. If the poison ivy is on your cloths don't touch them until you get home. Take them off without touching the parts that were in the ivy. If you'r already broken out, calamine lotion or hot water with baking soda or cornstarch can help reduce the itching. If the poison ivy gets bad or you have a history of bad poison ivy, see you'r doctor to get other medications. Of course, the best way to avoid this nasty rash is to know what it looks like -- stay away.

Response shows a complete understanding of how to treat poison ivy and the examples are well developed.

Summary annotation statement: Student gives a strong answer for part b, but a limited answer for part a. Student identifies most of the main ideas of the passage as well as their supporting details.



# KIRIS ASSESSMENT ANNOTATED RESPONSE GRADE 4 READING

## Sample 2-Point Response of Student Work

- a) If you are allergic to it you will break out and it can make you sick.  
B) You need to wash it off with soap and water with in 10 minutes. If it is more than 10 minutes you need to see a doctor.

examples

- a.) wash hands with soap  
B.) see the doctor  
C.) use calamine Lotion  
d.) hot water with baking soda

Response to part a is inadequate.

Response provides examples with no development and contains some inaccuracies.

Summary annotation statement: Student minimally identifies a main idea of the passage. Some details are included without reference to the main idea.

## Sample 1-Point Response of Student Work

The poison ivy is dangerous. You have to wash off and put soap on yourself. Then, take your clothes off if it has poison ivy.

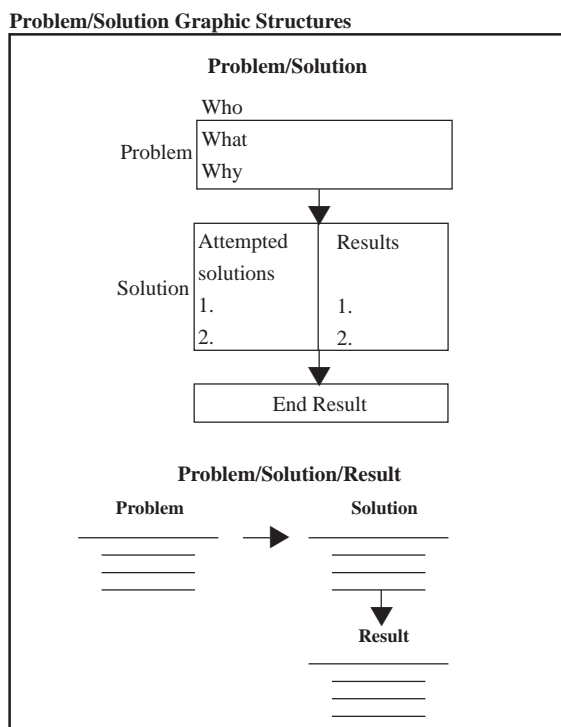
Response shows minimal understanding of the article.

Summary annotation statement: Student identifies only the most general main idea of the article, and provides no supporting details.

# INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

## “Three-Leaf Danger”

Talk with students about the concept of “problem/solution” as it applies to this passage. The graphic structure below will help students apply the concept to specific situations:



A. Ask the students to list activities that are fun, but could become dangerous if proper precautions are not taken. Their lists may include activities such as swimming, camping, hiking, flying a kite, bicycling, rollerblading, treeclimbing, etc. Students may work alone or in groups to complete the following activity:

Choose an activity and design a safety pamphlet. It may include:

- any kind of graphics/artwork the student would like to create or use that relates to the activity
- a brief description of the conditions or a scenario in which this activity could be taking place
- the potential dangers involved with this activity
- a list of potential dangers associated with this activity and a sequence of safety precautions to be taken for avoiding accidents.
- the steps to follow should an accident occur

OR

B. Design a leaflet outlining school bus safety rules.

C. Research insects and animals (or reptiles) that pose a threat to humans and can be quickly identified by shape, color or special markings. Design a brochure that describes these insects or animals and explains how a person can avoid direct contact with them. List the procedures to follow should someone be stung or bitten by a specific insect or animal.

D. Assemble a first aid kit and prepare a first aid manual that demonstrates ways in which the items in the kit may be used.

## References

*Strategic Learning in the Content Areas*, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 1989.

*Transformations: Kentucky's Curriculum Framework*, Kentucky Department of Education